

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In a fault tolerant system having a primary device and at least one redundant device, and further having a remote controller for monitoring the status of the devices and providing a control signal to switch from the primary device to ~~the~~ a redundant device upon detection of a failure in the primary device, a method of determining validity of the control signal comprising:

continually sending a first signal having a predetermined varying characteristic to at least the primary device from the remote controller; and

sending a second signal having a different varying characteristic to at least the primary device from the remote controller upon detection of a failure of the primary device.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the varying characteristic comprises a signal frequency.

3. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the signal frequency is a continuous wave frequency.

4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the signal frequency is a selected number of signals per unit of time.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the at least one redundant device includes a receiver responsive ~~to the~~ to the first signal for acknowledging receipt thereof to the remote controller.